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Remarks

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner questions how the material for the marker can be both flexible and rigid. The applicants respond that many materials are both simultaneously rigid and flexible in the context that while the material is rigid when in a state free of force or subjected to only a relatively minor force, the material exhibits flexibility when subjected to a force greater than a minor force. The cord connector of Osten (USP 5,336,106) and the rope-engaging portion of the removable sign of Brewster (USP 5,092,066) are ready and good examples of materials exhibiting simultaneously both rigidity and flexibility. Moreover, these concepts are more fully described in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 and the first full paragraph on page 8 (lines 3-15). The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this basis of rejection, and then to withdraw it.

Claims 1-6, 16, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Osten. The Examiner argues that Osten teaches a cord connector comprising a flexible flat member having first and second surfaces, a first and second elongated edge, and a first and second hole. Each hole has a slot defined by edge surfaces, and each slot extends from an inside edge of the hole to an elongated side edge of the cord connector. The applicants respectfully traverse.

The applicants have amended Claim 1 to require that the slot extends from the inside edge of each hole to an edge of the marker that is generally parallel to the length of the elongated objection when the marker is attached to the object. Support for this amendment is found in Claim 2, which is now canceled. This feature of the identification marker is not taught by Osten. The Osten slot extends from the bottom edge of the hole to the connector edge, not from the inside edge (relative to the center of the connector) of the connector hole. This difference is meaningful in that the Osten slot is designed for easy removal of the cord

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from the connector while the slot of the inventive identification marker is designed for difficult removal of the marker from the object to which it is attached. The former allows for easy and frequent use off the connector in multiple applications, while the latter is designed for a more permanent application. Given the different purposes of these slots, one does not suggest the other. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this basis of rejection, and then to withdraw it.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Brewster. The Examiner argues that Brewster teaches a removable, flexible sign comprising a base member 16, having first and second surfaces and first and second holes. Each hole has a slot wherein each slot extends to the edge of the sign. Here again, the applicants respectfully traverse.

The Brewster slot connecting the hole to the edge of the base is much the same in design as the Osten slot, i.e., the slot connects the bottom edge of the hole to the outer edge of the base. Again, the purpose of this design is to allow easy removal of the sign from the rope to which it is attached, just the opposite of the purpose of the slot design of the present invention, i.e., to retain the identification marker to the wire or other object to which it is attached. Here again, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this basis of rejection, and then to withdraw it.

Applicants again acknowledge allowance of Claims 8-12, 14-15, 17-18 and 20-21. The Examiner's objections to the photographs and drawings will be addressed upon the closing of examination.

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The applicants have addressed and traversed each and every rejection, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw each rejection and allow all of the rejected claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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